(d) whether earlier Dr. Golkanath Committee had also given its views in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) In the context of discussion regarding whether and to what extent futures trading has contributed to price rise in agricultural commodities in recent times, the Government set up an Expert Committee on 2-3-2007 under the chairmanship of Professor Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission to study, *inter-alia*, the extent of impact, if any, of futures trading on wholesale and retail prices of agricultural commodities.

(c) The Committee was asked to submit its report within two months from the date of its constitution. The Report is still awaited. The Government has requested Professor Abhijit Sen to submit the Report at the earliest.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Cheap and attractive goods of China

3433. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to take any steps to apprise the consumers about the purchase of indigenous goods and about the dangers of purchase of cheap and attractive goods of foreign countries particularly that of China;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some countries have banned Chinese toys for their toxic content; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Department of Consumer Affairs has undertaken multi media publicity campaign regarding consumer awareness under which efforts are being made to educate consumers about their rights and grievance redressal mechanism. Specific focus has been given to spread awareness regarding purchase of goods that are based on standardization such as ISI, Agmark etc.

(b) As above.

(c) and (d) This information is not maintained in this Department.

Import of wheat

3434. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of wheat import for the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) what is the average price paid per quintal; and

(c) the difference between procurement price and imported price, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) During the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, no import of wheat was done on Government account. However, during the year 2006-07, orders were placed for import of 55 lakh tons of wheat. Out of this 55 lakh tons, a quantity of 53.79 lakh tons arrived in 2006-07 and 0.75 lakh tons in 2007-08 (total 54.54 lakh tons).

(b) The average price paid per quintal was Rs. 924 for the imports ordered during the year 2006-07.

(c) The details are as under:

Rabi Marketing Season (Procurement Year)	Import Price (Rs. per quintal)	Procurement Price (MSP) (Rs.)	Difference (Rs.)
2003-04	No imports	630*	-
2004-05	No imports	630	-
2005-06	No imports	640	-
2006-07	924	700**	224

* Rs.620 + Rs.10 as drought relief.

** Rs.650 + Rs.50 as bonus.

Reduction in allocation of foodgrains to States

3435. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are cuts in allocation in foodgrain in both rice and wheat for APL cardholders in West Bengal and Kerala in last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are any other States where such cuts were made;

(d) if so, the details of the cuts;

(e) whether Government has received any request from State Governments to restore the allocations; and

(f) if so, what steps Government is taking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Whereas allocations of foodgrains under TPDS for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families are being made @ 35 kg. per family per month, on the basis of 1993-94 poverty estimate of Planning Commission and March 2000 population estimate of Registrar General of India, those for Above Poverty Line (APL) category are made depending upon the availability of their stocks in the Central Pool.

In view the declining stock position of wheat and rice in the Central Pool, their allocation under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for the APL category was rationalized, for all the States/UTs, including West Bengal & Kerala, on the basis of offtake during previous 3 years *i.e.* 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 from June, 2006 and April, 2007, respectively.